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THE following are the rules adopted for the government of committees in the choice of papers for publication.

FIRST, “ That the grounds of the Committee’s choice
“ of papers for the press, should always be the importance or singularity of the subjects, or the advantageous
“ manner of treating them, without pretending to answer, or to make the society answerable, for the certainty of the facts, or propriety of the reasonings,
“ contained in the several papers so published, which
“ must still rest on the credit or judgment of their respective authors.

SECONDLY, “ That neither the Society, nor the
“ Committee of the press, do ever give their opinion as
“ a body, upon any paper they may publish, or upon
“ any subject of Art or Nature that comes before
“ them.”

In the Month of May 1796, the Society, in order the more effectually to answer the ends of their institution, agreed to appropriate, annually, a part of their funds to be disposed of in Premiums to the Authors of the best performances, inventions, or improvements, relative to certain specific subjects of useful knowledge. The following premiums were thereupon proposed:

I.

For the best system of liberal education and literary instruction, adapted to the genius of the government, and best calculated to promote the general welfare, of the United States; comprehending also a plan for instituting and conducting public schools, in this country, on principles of the most extensive utility—*A premium of one hundred dollars.*

Papers on this subject will be received, till the first day of January, 1797.

II.

For the most simple, easy and expeditious method of computing the longitude, from the common lunar observation,—*A premium of seventy dollars.*

The particular view of the society, in proposing this subject, is, that the solution of this most useful problem may, if possible, be rendered so plain and easy, as to be readily learned by every mariner, even of moderate capacity, who understands the common rules of arithmetic; and thus be introduced into general practice.

Papers on this subject will be received, till the first day of January, 1797.

III.

For the best construction or improvement of ship-pumps,—*A premium of seventy dollars.*

Improvements

Improvements which may be readily applied to the ship-pumps in common use, will be most likely to be adopted by seamen, and introduced into general practice.

Papers on this subject will be received, till the first day of January, 1797.

IV.

For the best construction or improvement of stoves, or fire-places,——*A premium of sixty dollars.* The principal end which the society have in view, in proposing this subject, is the benefit of the poorer class of people, especially of such as live in towns, or other places where fuel is dear. To answer this end, the stove should be cheap, and of durable materials; should afford the necessary degree of a salubrious and durable heat, with the least expense of fuel possible; and should be capable of being employed both for the purpose of warming the room, and cooking provisions for the family.—The society have been informed, that stoves made of brick are, in many respects, superior to those made of metal; especially, in the saving of fuel, and preserving a more equable degree of heat.

Papers on this subject will be received, till the first day of January, 1797.

V.

For the best method, verified by experiment, of preventing the premature decay of Peach-trees,——*A premium of sixty dollars.*

Papers on this subject will be received, till the first day of January, 1798.

VI.

For the best experimental treatise on native American vegetable dyes; accompanied with an accurate account of the vegetables employed——*A premium of ninety dollars.*

Papers

Papers on this subject will be received, till the first day of February, 1798.

VII.

For the best construction or improvement of lamps; especially, for lighting the streets—*A premium of fifty dollars.*

Papers on this subject will be received, till the first day of April, 1797.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.

1. Every candidate, along with his performance, is to send to the society a sealed letter, containing his name and place of abode; which letter shall never be opened by the society, except in the case of a successful candidate.

2. No performance, invention or improvement, on any of the subjects proposed, for which a patent or any other reward shall have been obtained, before presenting it to the society, shall be considered as entitled to the premium.

3. In lieu of the money which shall be awarded by the society, as a premium, any successful candidate shall have it in his option to receive a gold or silver medal, or piece of plate, with a suitable inscription, of equal value.

4. The society reserve to themselves the power of giving, in all cases, such part only of any premium proposed, as the performance shall be adjudged to deserve; or, of withholding the whole, if it shall appear to have no merit above what may have been already published on the subject. The candidates may, however, be assured, that the society will always judge liberally of their several claims.

A number of papers have been received on the several subjects above stated. But the society have as yet forborne the adjudication of any premium, except that offered for
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the best system of liberal and literary instruction, adapted to the genius of the government, and best calculated to promote the general welfare of the United States.

On the fifteenth of December 1797, the society, agreeably to special appointment, proceeded to consider the several Essays on Education, which had been presented. The analyses of these Essays were read, when it was agreed to take the question in this manner on each performance, viz. "Is this the best system of liberal Education and literary Instruction, adapted to the genius of the government, and best calculated to promote the general welfare, of the United States?"

Whereupon it appeared to the society that two of these Essays, I. An Essay with this motto, "*In Metii descendat Judicis aures.*" HORACE. II. An Essay with this motto, "*I call a complete and generous Education that which fits a man to perform justly, skilfully and magnanimously, all the offices, both private and public, of peace and war.*" MILTON; possessed a superior degree of merit, and were worthy of publication. The premium was in consequence adjudged to be equally divided between the authors of these two Essays.

The President then opened the sealed letters which accompanied these performances, when it appeared that the Reverend SAMUEL KNOX, A. M. of Bladensburg, in Maryland, was author of the first, and SAMUEL HARRISON SMITH, A. M. of Philadelphia, was author of the second Essay.

The society then directed the publication of the two Essays.

MR. I. H. DE MAGELLAN, OF LONDON,

Having made a donation, to the society, of *two hundred guineas*, to be vested in a permanent fund; that the
interest

interest arising therefrom may be disposed of, in annual premiums, to the authors of the best discoveries or most useful improvements, relating to Navigation, or to Natural Philosophy, mere Natural History only excepted;—the following are the rules and conditions, adopted by the society, for the disposition of the proposed premiums, in conformity to the intention of the Donor, viz.

I. The candidate shall send his discovery, invention or improvement, addressed to the President or one of the Vice-Presidents of the society, free of postage or other charges; and shall distinguish his performance by some motto, device or other signature, at his pleasure. Together with his discovery, invention or improvement, he shall also send a sealed letter, containing the same motto, device or signature, and subscribed with the real name and place of residence of the author.

II. Persons of any nation, sect, or denomination whatever, shall be admitted as candidates for this premium.

III. No discovery, invention or improvement shall be entitled to this premium, which hath been already published, or for which the author hath been publicly rewarded elsewhere.

IV. The candidate shall communicate his discovery, invention or improvement, either in the English, French, German, or Latin language.

V. All such communications shall be publicly read or exhibited to the society, at some stated meeting, not less than one month previous to the day of adjudication; and shall at all times be open to the inspection of such members as shall desire it. But no member shall carry home with him the communication, description or model, except the officer to whom it shall be entrusted: nor shall such officer part with the same out of his custody, without a special order of the society for that purpose.

VI. The

VI. The society having previously referred the several communications, from candidates for the premium then depending, to the consideration of the twelve counsellors and other officers of the Society, and having received their report thereon, shall, at one of their stated meetings, in the month of December, annually, after the expiration of this current year (of the time and place, together with the particular occasion of which meeting, due notice shall be previously given, by public advertisement) proceed to the final adjudication of the said premium: and after due consideration had, a vote shall first be taken on this question, viz. “ Whether any of the communications, then under inspection, be worthy of the proposed premium?” If this question be determined in the *negative*, the whole business shall be deferred till another year: But if in the *affirmative*, the Society shall proceed to determine, by ballot, given by the members at large, the discovery, invention or improvement most useful and worthy. And that discovery, invention or improvement, which shall be found to have a majority of concurring votes in its favour, shall be successful. And then, *and not till then*, the sealed letter accompanying the crowned performance, shall be opened, and the name of the author announced as the person entitled to the said premium.

VII. No member of the Society who is a candidate for the premium then depending, or who hath not previously declared to the Society, either by word or writing, that he has considered and weighed, according to the best of his judgment, the comparative merits of the several claims then under consideration, shall sit in judgment, or give his vote, in awarding the said premium.

VIII. A full account of the crowned subject shall be published by the Society as soon as may be, after the adjudication,

tion, either in a separate publication, or in the next succeeding volume of their Transactions, or in both.

IX. The unsuccessful performances shall remain under consideration, and their authors be considered as candidates for the premium, for *five* years next succeeding the time of their presentment; except such performances as their authors may, in the mean time, think fit to withdraw: And the Society shall annually publish an abstract of the titles, object or subject matter of the communications so under consideration, such only excepted as the Society shall think not worthy of public notice.

X. The letters containing the names of authors whose performances shall be rejected, or which shall be found unsuccessful after a trial of five years, shall be burnt before the Society without breaking the seals.

XI. In case there should be a failure, in any year, of any communication worthy of the proposed premium, there will then be two premiums to be awarded in the next year. But no accumulation of premiums shall entitle an author to more than one premium for any one discovery, invention or improvement.

XII. The premium shall consist of an oval plate of solid standard gold, of the value of *Ten Guineas*. On one side thereof shall be neatly engraved a short Latin motto suited to the occasion—together with these words, *The premium of I. H. De Magellan, of London, established in the year 1786*. And on the other side of the plate shall be engraved these words, *Awarded by the A. P. S. to———* ——— for his discovery of ——— ——— *A. D.———* *President*. And the seal of the Society shall be annexed to the said golden plate, by a ribbon passing through a small hole near the lower edge thereof.

Since

Since the publication of their last volume, the Society has had occasion to deplore the loss of their President, DAVID RITTENHOUSE. He died June 26th, 1796.

At a meeting, convened by special order, on the first of July, the following motion was made, and unanimously adopted, viz. That this Society, deeply affected by the death of their late worthy President, do resolve, That an EULOGIUM, commemorative of his distinguished talents and services, be publicly pronounced before the Society by one of its members.

At the next meeting DR. BENJAMIN RUSH was appointed to prepare the Eulogium, and on the 17th of December following it was pronounced in the second Presbyterian Church before the Society. After which the Society, having returned to their Hall, directed the publication of the Eulogium.

On the sixth of January 1797, at the annual election of officers, THOMAS JEFFERSON, was called to the chair of the Society.

In consequence of this appointment, the Secretaries on the 7th of January addressed to Mr. Jefferson the following letter.

Philadelphia, Jan. 7, 1797.

SIR,

We have the pleasure of informing you that at the annual election of officers of the American Philosophical Society for promoting useful knowledge, held at Philadelphia, on the 6th Instant, you were chosen President of that respectable institution.

The Society, Sir, cannot soon forget the loss they sustained by the death of the late worthy and ingenious D. Rittenhouse; but after expressing their grief on this melancholy occasion, they look forward with this consoling reflection, that in the same chair, from which two American philosophers have successively instructed them and the

world, a third is now feated, by whose genius and knowledge, our national name will preserve a distinguished place in the annals of science.

Permit us, Sir, on this occasion, to express our satisfaction in this pleasing event, and in being the organs by which the Society announce their choice.

We are,

With Sentiments of Esteem and

Respect, Sir,

Your obedient Servants,

SAMUEL MAGAW,	} Secretaries of the American Philosophical Society of Philadelphia.
JONATHAN WILLIAMS,	
WILLIAM BARTON,	
JOHN BLEAKLEY,	

THOMAS JEFFERSON, Esq.

To this letter, Mr. Jefferson, on the twenty-eighth of January, 1797, replied as follows :

Monticello, Jan. 28, 1797.

GENTLEMEN,

I have duly received your favor of the 7th inst. informing me that the American Philosophical Society have been pleased to name me their President. The suffrage of a body, which comprehends whatever the American world has of distinction in philosophy and science in general, is the most flattering incident of my life, and that to which I am the most sensible. My satisfaction would be complete, were it not for the consciousness that it is far beyond my titles. I feel no qualification for this distinguished post, but a sincere zeal for all the objects of our institution, and an ardent desire

desire to see knowledge so disseminated through the mass of mankind, that it may at length reach even the extremes of society, beggars and kings. I pray you, gentlemen, to testify for me to our body, my sense of their favor, and my dispositions to supply by zeal what I may be deficient in the other qualifications proper for their service, and to be assured that your testimony cannot go beyond my feelings.

Permit me to avail myself of this opportunity of expressing the sincere grief I feel for the loss of our beloved Rittenhouse. Genius, science, modesty, purity of morals, simplicity of manners, marked him as one of nature's best samples of the perfection she can cover under the human form. Surely no society, till ours, within the same compass of time, ever had to deplore the loss of two such members as Franklin and Rittenhouse: Franklin, our Patriarch, the ornament of our age and country, whom Philosophy and Philanthropy announced the first of men, and whose name will be as a star of the first magnitude in the firmament of heaven, when the memory of his companions of the way will be lost in the abyss of time and space. With the most affectionate attachment to their memory, and with sentiments of the highest respect to the Society, and to yourselves personally, I have the honor to be, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient,

And most humble Servant,

TH. JEFFERSON.

Messrs. SAMUEL MAGAW,	} Secretaries of the American Philosophical Society.
JONATHAN WILLIAMS,	
WILLIAM BARTON,	
JOHN BLEAKLEY,	